

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093475  
ORIGIN IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:RHARE

APPROVED BY:IO:TBROWN

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R 120413Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS 8747

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 05642 ACTION SECSTATE AND USUN NEW YORK  
INFO BEIRUT, CARACAS, LA PAZ, TEL AVIV, AND MEXICO DATED  
APRIL 6, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 05642

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, MX, UNSV

SUBJECT: MEXICO DECIDES AGAINST SENDING TROOPS TO UN  
FORCE IN LEBANON

REF: A) USUN NEW YORK 01252 B) MEXICO 5535 (NOTAL)

1. IN AN APRIL 5 NOTE TO UNSG WALDHEIM, GOM SECRETARY OF  
FOREIGN RELATIONS ROEL INFORMED HIM THAT GOM HAD DECIDED  
NOT TO SEND 600 MAN CONTINGENT TO UN FORCES IN SOUTHERN  
LEBANON. THE NOTE CITED MEXICO'S TRADITIONAL POSITION  
(NON-INTERVENTION) IN RESPONDING TO PREVIOUS UN REQUESTS  
FOR TROOPS, THE VAGUENESS OF THE UN MANDATE (IN SOUTHERN  
LEBANON), AND THE "DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES" PREVAILING.  
THE DECISION WAS TAKEN FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
SECRETARY ROEL AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GALVAN WITH  
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PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING EARLIER INDICATION THAT MEXICO MIGHT  
PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL, NEGATIVE DECISION WAS LIKELY TAKEN  
AS A RESULT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND POLITICAL  
PRESSURES, MAINLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE LEFT.  
ARTICLE 76 OF THE MEXICAN CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THE PRESI-

DENT TO OBTAIN SENATE AUTHORIZATION TO SEND TROOPS ABROAD. EVEN THOUGH THE SENATE IS NOT IN SESSION, IT COULD HAVE BEEN CALLED TOGETHER, AND WOULD HAVE PROBABLY AUTHORIZED THE MISSION, IF THERE WERE A CONSENSUS AMONG THE POLITICAL ELITE BACKING MEXICAN PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES (PCM, PPS) AND NATIONALISTIC POLITICAL COMMENTATORS PUBLICLY OPPOSED MEXICAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL. THE PCM (COMMUNIST) CITED THE IMPERIALIST BACKING OF UNIFIL AS REASON FOR MEXICAN NON-PARTICIPATION. NATIONALISTIC EDITORIALISTS CONCENTRATED ON THE POSSIBLE LOSS OF MEXICAN SOLDIERS IN AN ILL-DEFINED OPERATION IN A DISTANT LAND. GIVEN GOM NEED FOR SUPPORT OF THESE ELEMENTS ON IMPORTANT DOMESTIC ISSUES, THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT UNIFIL WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY VITAL TO MEXICO TO EXPEND HIS POLITICAL CAPITAL.

EM EMBOFFS WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH AMB SERGIO GONZALEZ GALVEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AND REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND. THOMPSON UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE093475  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IO/UNP:RHARE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 USUN NEW YORK 1252, 78 MEXICO 5535  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MEXICO DECIDES AGAINST SENDING TROOPS TO UN FORCE IN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PORG, MPOL, MX, LE, UNIFIL  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014